

amount of pain as that caused by honey bees. There are three sets of neuters in each colony—major and minor workers and soldiers, and one wingless queen.

"Early in December, 1877," Miss Treat relates, "I brought a large colony of these ants from one of the hills, including the workers, major and minor, and soldiers, and established them in a glass jar which I placed in my study. They very soon commenced work, tunnelling the earth and erecting a formicary, as nearly as they could after the pattern of their home on the barrens. The mining was done entirely by the small workers. At first they refused all animal food, but ate greedily fruit and sugar; and all kinds of seeds which I gave them were immediately taken below, out of sight. I now visited the mounds on the barrens, and found abundant indications of their food supplies. At the base of each mound was a heap of chaff and shells of various kinds of seeds. The chaff was of *Aristida speciformis*, which grew plentifully all about. I also found many seeds of *Euphorbia* and *Croton*, and several species of leguminous seeds. But the ants were not bringing seeds in at this time of the year; they were only carrying out the discarded seeds and chaff; and only on the warmest days were they very active. But they do not wholly hibernate. Even after a frosty night, by ten o'clock in the morning many of the hills would be quite active.

"On excavating a nest, I found chambers, or store-rooms, filled with various kinds of seeds. But, so far as I have observed, the seeds are not eaten until they are swollen or sprouted, when the outer covering bursts of itself. At this stage the starch is being converted into sugar, and this seems to be what the ants are after. They also seemed to be very fond of the yellow pollen-dust of the pine. The catkins of the long-leaved pine commenced falling in February, and I noticed ants congregated on them; so I took those just ready to discharge the pollen, and shook the dust on the mound in little heaps, which were soon surrounded by ants, crowding and jostling each other in their eagerness to obtain a share.

"The colony in the glass jar seemed perfectly contented, not trying to make their escape at all. The earth was originally a little more than two inches in depth, but by the first of February these wonderful architects had reared their domicile to the height of six inches. They raised tier upon tier of chambers in so substantial a manner that they never fell in. One of the store-rooms in which they deposited the seeds I gave them was at the bottom of the jar, and the seeds were stored against the glass with no intervening earth between; it contained about a teaspoonful of millet. I gave this chamber the right degree of heat and moisture to sprout the seed by pouring a little water down the side of the jar until it penetrated the chamber, and then setting it near the fire. The ants soon appreciated the condition of this store-room, and many congregated there and seemed to be enjoying a feast. The next day the seeds were all brought to the surface and deposited in a little heap on one side of the jar, where many of them grew, making a pretty little green forest, which the ants soon cut down and destroyed. This chamber remained empty for three or four days, and was then again filled with fresh millet and apple and croton seeds."

On excavating some nests of the same species (*Atta crudelis*) in their native haunts on the barrens, she found granaries of seeds scattered irregularly throughout to the depth of twenty-two inches below the surface of the ground; some were near the surface, and a few scattered about in the mound had sprouted. The mound is usually not more than four to six inches above the level of the ground.

"The great majority of nests," she adds, "that I have found are in the low pine barrens—so low that on reaching the depth of two feet the water runs into the cavity like a spring, and stands above some of the granaries. Notwithstanding this wet locality, I found no sprouted seeds in the deeper store-rooms, but only in the warmer mound. On sunny days the larvæ are brought up into the mound and deposited in chambers near the surface, where they receive the benefit of the sun's rays. On cool, cloudy days and in the early morning I found no larvæ near the surface. If the ants are intelligent enough to treat the larvæ in this way, why should they not store seeds where they will not sprout? And when they need to sprout them in order to obtain the sugar they contain, it would take no more wisdom to treat the seed as they do the larvæ—bringing them near the surface to obtain the right degree of heat for the required result."